

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EA-09

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, RP  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS COMMENTS ON MARTIAL LAW AND NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY

REF: MANILA 10528

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: DURING IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE  
WORLD BANK/UNDP/ADB PRESS SEMINAR GROUP, ON JULY 20, PRESIDENT  
MARCOS ADDRESSED QUESTIONS OF CONTINUATION OF MARTIAL LAW AND  
COROLLARY ISSUE OF CONVENING THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.  
SOME OF NEWSMEN'S ACTUAL QUESTIONS PARTIALLY INAUDIBLE ON TAPE.

1. MARTIAL LAW: QUESTION: IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS I  
HAVE HEARD UNDERSECRETARY BARBERO SAYING YOU WILL LIFT MARTIAL  
LAW SOONER OR LATER AND THAT YOU WERE FEELING THE BURDEN OF  
OFFICE. I'VE HEARD MR. TEEHANKEE SAY YOU SHOULD LIFT MARTIAL  
LAW RIGHT AWAY. CHAIRMAN PEREZ SAYS THERE WILL BE NO NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY CALLED. SOME PEOPLE ARE TELLING ME THE GOVERNMENT  
IS BUYING BALLOT PAPERS. CAN YOU GIVE US SOME IDEA OF  
YOUR THINKING ABOUT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE  
PHILIPPINES? DO YOU THINK THERE IS INTENTION IN THE  
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RUMORS THAT ON THE TWENTY-FIRST OF SEPTEMBER THERE IS

GOING TO BE A SLAM BAM? PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE, QUOTE:  
THE TWENTY-FIRST OF SEPTEMBER, AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, IS  
THE DATE OF THE INAUGURATION OF MARTIAL LAW AND THE NEW  
SOCIETY. ACTUALLY, I HAVE BEEN ALSO PUZZLED BY ALL  
THESE PREDICTIONS COMING FROM ALL QUARTERS -- THE JUSTICE  
OF THE SUPREME COURT, THEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION  
ON ELECTIONS, AND SANGGUNIANG BAYAN (SANGGUNIANG REALLY  
MEANS COUNCIL), THE COUNCILS OF THE DIFFERENT LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITIES, PROVINCES, CITIES AND OTHER LEADERS.  
I HAVE SAID BEFORE AND I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT THAT WE FEEL,  
I FEEL, THAT THE QUESTION OF THE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW  
IS SOMETHING THAT WAS DETERMINED BY OUR PEOPLE. I DID  
ISSUE THE PROCLAMATION ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1972, BUT I  
SUBMITTED THE MATTER TO A PLEBISCITE AND ON REFERENDUMS  
REPEATEDLY IN 1973; AND IT WAS THE PEOPLE ACTUALLY WHO NOT  
ONLY RATIFIED BUT AUTHORIZED THE PROCLAMATION OF MARTIAL  
LAW, WHEN IN 1972, LATE 1972, THE NEW CONSTITUTION WAS  
APPROVED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
AND THIS CONSTITUTION WAS SUBMITTED TO OUR PEOPLE AND  
RATIFIED IN A PLEBISCITE. IN THAT CONSTITUTION, THE POWERS  
OF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION WERE CONFIRMED BY OUR  
PEOPLE AND THE QUESTION WAS DEFINITELY ASKED, POSITIVELY  
ASKED -- "DO YOU FAVOR THE CONTINUATION OF MARTIAL LAW? --  
AND THE PEOPLE HAVE SUSTAINED THE CONTINUANCE OF MARTIAL  
LAW. IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE IMPOLITIC AND UNWISE FOR  
ANYONE NOW TO COME AND SAY WE SUSPEND OR TERMINATE  
MARTIAL LAW. IT WOULD BE MORE PRUDENT FOR ANYONE,  
INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, FIRST TO SUBMIT THE MATTER TO  
THE PEOPLE. IT IS MY FEELING THAT ALL THESE PROGNOS-  
TICATIONS, THESE PREDICTIONS, BY VARIOUS QUARTERS IS  
MERELY AN INDICATION OF THE FACT THEY WANT ANOTHER  
SUBMISSION OF THE QUESTION TO THE PEOPLE. IF THIS IS SO,  
THEN WE WILL STILL HAVE TO CONDUCT SOME KIND OF A SURVEY  
TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT THE FEELINGS OF ALL THESE  
LEADERS WHO ARE SUBMITTING ALL TYPES OF PROPOSALS. IF,  
HOWEVER, THERE IS ANY, I WILL SUBMIT AGAIN THE MATTER TO  
THE PEOPLE FOR A DECISION. I PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO  
SEE THE MOVE TOWARDS THE COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE CONSTITUTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. 3,\$ 17953.

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2. INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY; QUESTION: TWO DAYS  
AGO THERE WAS A STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN PEREZ (REGARDING  
INA). I UNDERSTAND IT IS HIS PERSONAL FEELING OR  
IDEA. CAN WE ASK FOR AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE  
STATEMENT MADE BY MR. PEREZ? PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE,  
QUOTE: AS I TOLD YOU, HE MAY BE REFLECTING THE OPINION  
OF NOT ONLY HIMSELF BUT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION  
WHO ARE, I UNDERSTAND, ALARMED ABOUT THE FACT THAT SOME

PARTIES ARE ASKING FOR A CONVENING OF THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHEN THE RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES IN THE REFERENDUM OF 1973 AS WELL AS 1974 INDICATED THAT THE PEOPLE DID NOT WANT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY -- THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY -- TO BE CALLED. I WOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT IN SEVERAL INSTANCES I HAVE SAID WE MUST MOVE TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTION. I HAVE REPEATED IT HERE AND I INTEND TO DO THAT. I INTEND TO MOVE INTO A STAGE WHERE WE CAN IMPLEMENT THE CALLING OF A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHETHER IT IS INTERIM OR THE ULTIMATE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE SITTING DOWN AND PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT. THE DECISION OF THE PEOPLE NOT TO CALL THE INTERIM ASSEMBLY, OF COURSE, MAY HAVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED; BUT I STILL WOULD LIKE TO SEE A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CALLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WHETHER IT IS THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OR THE OTHER FINAL TYPE OF ASSEMBLY. THIS IS ONE OF THE POINTS JUST AS WE ARE REVIEWING, THE MATTER OF THE INTERIM ASSEMBLY OR THE CALLING OF THE CHOICE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM ASSEMBLY -- NOT THE INTERIM ASSEMBLY -- THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE;

3. COMMENT: MARCOS WAS MORE THAN USUALLY PERIPHASTIC IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE BUT FOR THE MOMENT IT APPEARS HE (A) HAS NO INTENTION OF LIFTING MARTIAL LAW IN THE NEAR FUTURE; (B) HAS NO INTENTION OF EVER SUMMONING THE INA PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION; (C) WANTS A LEGISLATIVE BODY BUT ONLY ONE WHICH WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH HIS EXERCISE OF ABSOLUTE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWER; (D) WANTS THE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SELECTING THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW LEGIS- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATIVE BODY PERHAPS BY THEIR ASSENT TO CANDIDATES PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT. AS ALWAYS, WHEN HE IS NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN OF THE PRECISE MANNER IN WHICH HE WILL PROCEED, MARCOS FALLS BACK ON THE "WILL OF THE PEOPLE" TO JUSTIFY WHATEVER COURSE HE TAKES. IN CITING THE REFERENDUMS OF 1973 AND 1974 TO SUPPORT HIS VIEW THE PEOPLE DID NOT WANT THE INA, HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT IS IN ERROR. THERE WAS NO 1974 REFERENDUM ALTHOUGH THE GUIDED PRESS DUTIFULLY REPORTED THE PRESIDENT'S MISTAKE AS FACT. SULLIVAN

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